

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

**Lower Galdeford
Ludlow
Shropshire**

NGR: SO 5160 7460
Report No: BA0422SCCLG

BORDER ARCHAEOLOGY

PO Box 36
Leominster
Herefordshire
HR6 0YQ

Technical Services
Chapel Walk
Burgess Street
Leominster
Herefordshire
HR6 8DE

Contents

1. Non-Technical Summary	3
2. Introduction	4
3. Geology	4
4. Evaluation Strategy	5
5. Archaeological Evaluation	9
5.1 Trench 1	9
5.2 Trench 2	9
5.3 Trench 3	11
5.4 SSP 1	12
5.5 SSP 2	12
5.6 SSP 3	13
5.7 SSP 4	14
5.8 SSP 5	14
6. Summary	14
7. Historical Interpretation	18
7.1 Brief Historical Overview	18
7.2 Historical Interpretation of Evaluation Results	18
8. Bibliography & Cartography	21
9. Copyright	22

List of illustrations

FIG. 1: SITE LOCATION PLAN	4
FIG. 2: PLAN OF FRIARY CHURCH AND CONVENTUAL BUILDINGS (1863)	6
FIG. 3: LAYOUT OF TRENCHES AND STRUCTURAL SURVEY PITS WITH PLAN OF FRIARY CHURCH SUPERIMPOSED	7
FIG. 4: TRENCHES AND STRUCTURAL SURVEY PITS PLOTTED ONTO ARCHITECTS' PLAN	8
PLATE 1: TRENCH 1 LOOKING WEST SHOWING CONTEXT (106)	10
PLATE 2: WEST-FACING SECTION TRENCH 2	10
PLATE 3: TRENCH 3 LOOKING EAST SHOWING CONTEXT (311) IN THE FOREGROUND AND (312) IMMEDIATELY BEHIND	12
PLATE 4: TRENCH 3 LOOKING WEST SHOWING CONTEXT (310) IN CENTRE OF PHOTOGRAPH	13
FIG. 5: TRENCH 1 SHOWING WALL (106)	15
FIG. 6: WEST-FACING SECTION TRENCH 2	16
FIG. 7: SOUTH-FACING SECTION TRENCH 3	16
FIG. 8: PLAN OF TRENCH 3	17
PLATE 5: CONJECTURAL RECONSTRUCTION DRAWING OF AUGUSTINIAN FRIARY AT LOWER GALDEFORD, LUDLOW (1863)	20
FIG. 9: TITHE MAP OF THE PARISH OF ST LAWRENCE, LUDLOW (1847)	20

1. Non-Technical Summary

The evaluation located what appears to be the eastern wall (oriented northwest-southeast) of an aisled structure and contemporary cobbled stone floor in Trench 3, together with a probable hearth feature. Three fragments of c. 14th century impressed stone tile appear to be associated with the demolition of the aisled structure.

Also identified within the trench was part of a probable terrace feature contemporary with the floor and wall.

The function of the building discovered in Trench 3 is unclear. It may have simply served as a barn for the storage of agricultural produce (the Austin Friars held substantial gardens, orchards and meadows, extending to over 12 acres by 1538). Another possibility, suggested by the evidence of the probable hearth feature, is that the building was intended for the reception and entertainment of paupers or wayfarers, the primary mission of the Augustinian Friars being to minister to the poor and travellers.

Trench 1 revealed the base course of an irregularly built rubble wall, whose orientation does not seem to align with the features found within Trench 3 and is probably a post-medieval field boundary wall, while Trench 2 comprised a series of heavily disturbed 19th and 20th century deposits and revealed no significant archaeology.

Report Specification
Archaeological Evaluation: Paul Jones BA
Historical Research: Stephen Priestley MA
Artwork: Paul Jones BA and Michelle Bithell BA
Report edited by: George Children MA

2. Introduction

Border Archaeology was instructed by David Tanner Esq. for the County Property Services Officer of Shropshire County Council to undertake an archaeological evaluation on the proposed Youth Service Building located partly within the Scheduled Monument Area of the Augustinian Friary at Lower Galdeford, Ludlow, Shropshire (SO 5160 7460), the criteria and brief for which were issued by Michael Watson Esq., Historic Environment Officer. Scheduled Monument Consent (class 7) was obtained for that relevant part of the site. An interpretative analysis of the evaluation findings will follow in due course and the purpose of this Report is to formally record the specific details of the site work.

Copies of this Report will be submitted to Michael Watson and David Tanner of SCC, Bill Klemperer of English Heritage and the Sites and Monuments Record.

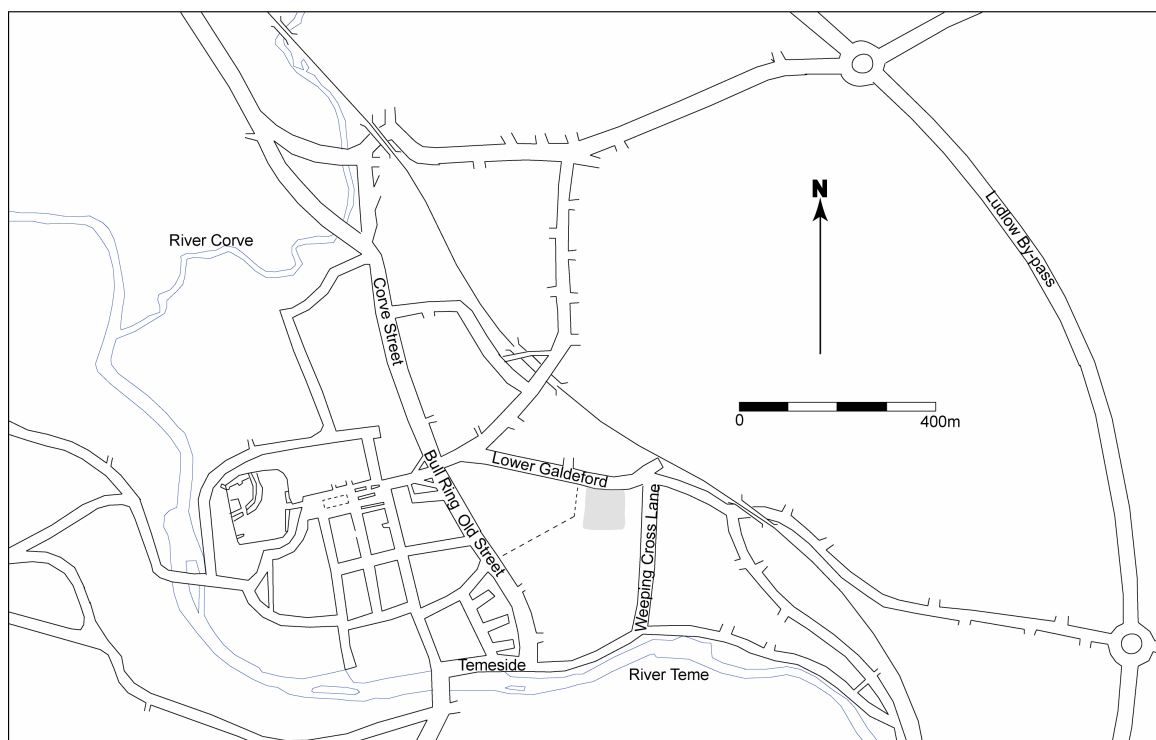


Fig. 1: Site Location Plan

3. Geology

The site lies within an unsurveyed urban area; however, the neighbouring soil association is a 571b BROMYARD, an argillic brown earth overlying Downtonian Raglan Mudstones [north of the River Temes] (British Geological Survey 1971).¹ The general soil characteristics consist of well-drained reddish fine silty soils over shale and siltstone. Some similar soils with slowly permeable subsoils and slight seasonal waterlogging also occur, with well-drained coarse loamy soils overlying sandstone in places.

¹ to the south, the parent geology consists of Ludfordian Flaggy and siltstones.

4. Evaluation Strategy

Three trenches and five Structural Survey Pits (SSPs) were located within the proposed development area, each being tied into architects' plans of the site as existing. Recording of the trenches in plan and section was generally at a scale of 1:20 (including archaeological deposits, features and structures). In addition, Trench 1 was planned at a scale of 1:50. Features and structures within all trenches were photographed using monochrome and colour transparency film.

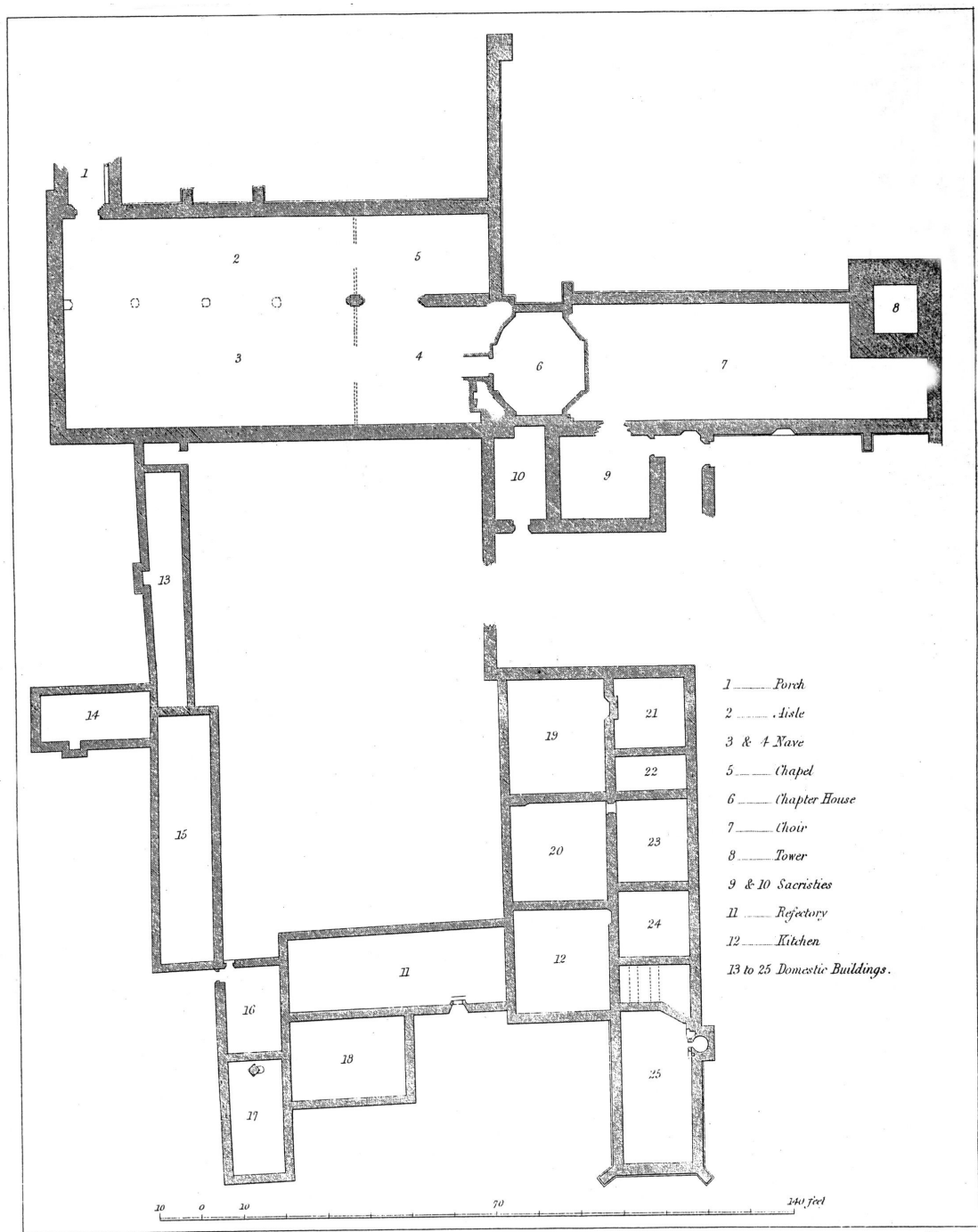
The evaluation of each trench included a detailed stratigraphic record using a context numbering system, as follows: (100)-(107) [Trench 1]; (200)-(203) [Trench 2]; (300)-(315) [Trench 3]. All trenches were excavated by hand to natural deposits or the first significant archaeological horizon, whichever was encountered first.

The five SSPs were excavated solely for the purpose of facilitating an assessment of the structural solidity of the ground and, as agreed with Michael Watson, the pits were archaeologically examined but not recorded in detail due primarily to the working depth exceeding safe working conditions or a total absence of archaeology. The SSPs were excavated and refilled in the presence of the structural engineering consultant.

Spoil was scanned for artefacts; any artefacts recovered were recorded as unstratified. Artefacts considered not important were recorded but not retained. All other artefacts were cleaned, labelled and recorded and will be incorporated into the site archive.

Full written and drawn records of all excavated contexts were made in accordance with archaeological practices set out by the IFA and using the MoLas single-context planning system (where applicable).

Two temporary benchmarks were established on the site with values of 91.02m AOD (Trenches 1 & 3) and 90.24m AOD (Trench 2).



PLAN OF THE HOUSE OF AUSTIN FRIARS, LUDLOW.

Published by the Society of Antiquaries of London 1863.

Fig. 2: Plan of Friary Church and conventual buildings (1863)

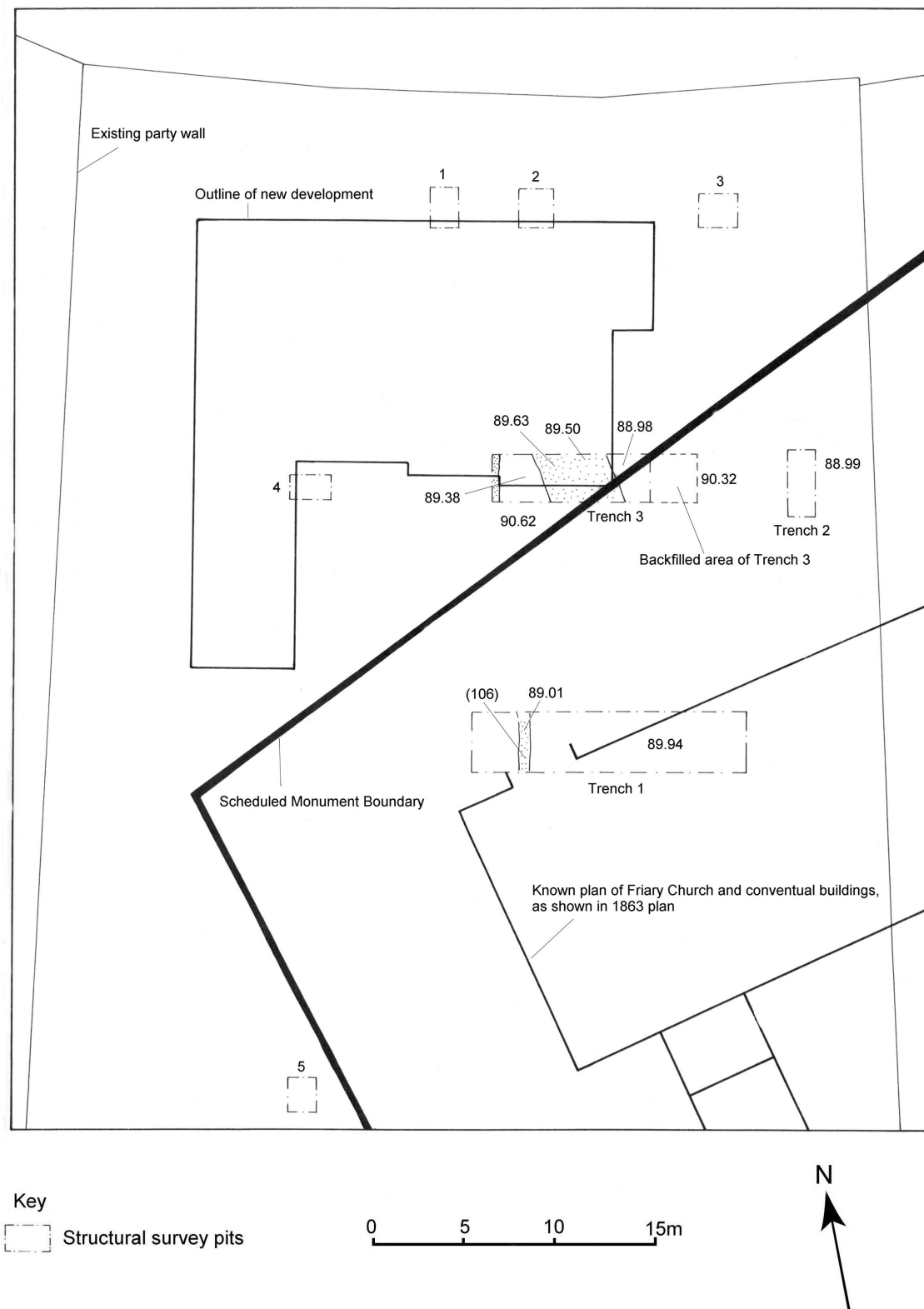


Fig. 3: Layout of trenches and structural survey pits with plan of Friary Church superimposed

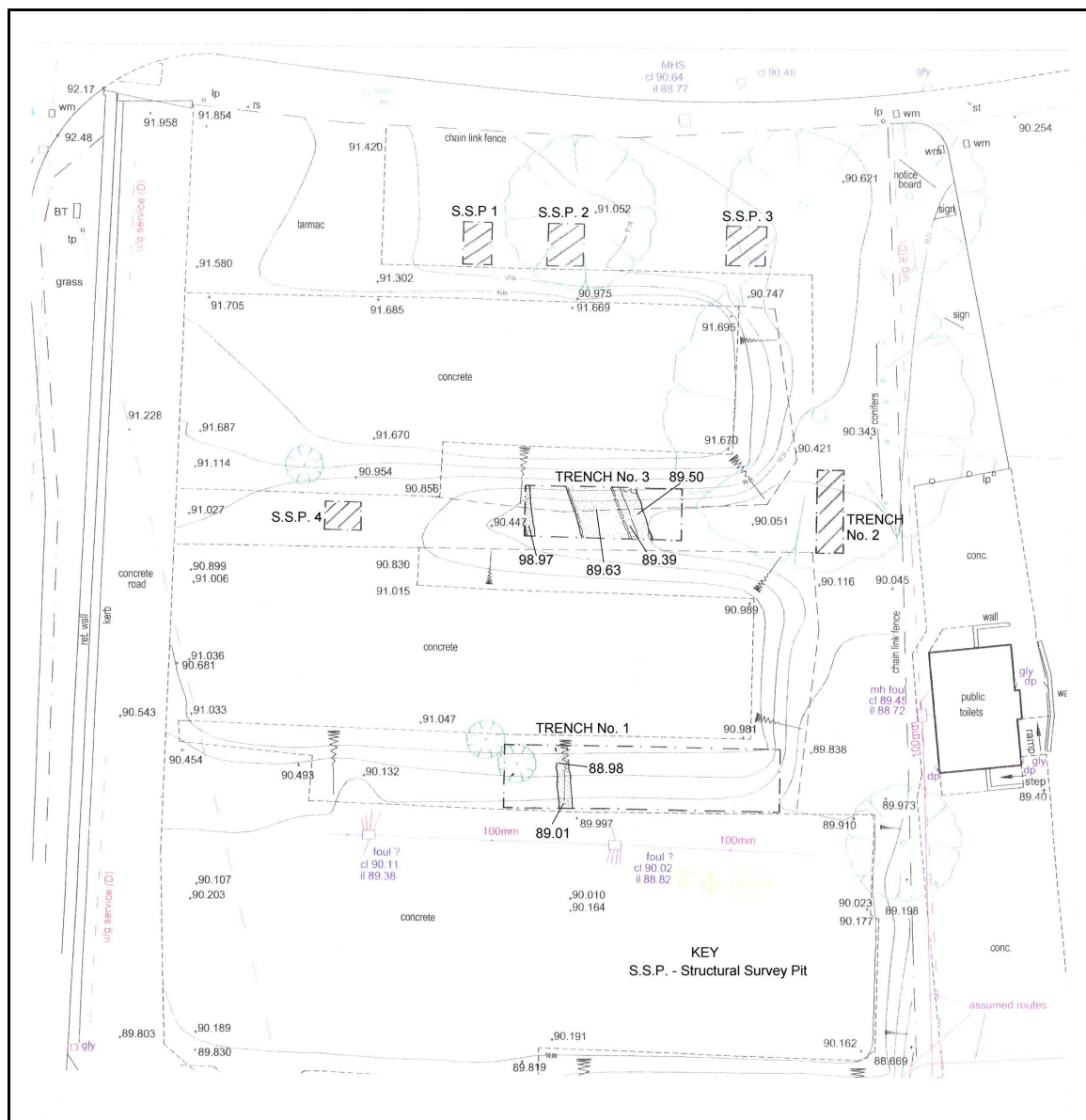


Fig. 4: Trenches and structural survey pits plotted onto architects' plan

5. Archaeological Evaluation

5.1 Trench 1

CONTEXT	DESCRIPTION
CONTEXT (100)	Indurated concrete floor
INTERPRETATION:	<i>Floor of recently demolished school buildings</i>
CONTEXT (101)-(104)	Colloidal clayey coarse sands overlying natural deposits (107) at the E and W end of the trench. Very frequent amounts of 20 th century CBM fragments. The base of these deposits was not reached during the evaluation.
INTERPRETATION:	<i>Heavily disturbed soils associated with the insertion of services to the recently demolished school buildings</i>
CONTEXT [105]	Situated at the W end of the trench was a linear cut measuring 0.7m in width and extending across the trench. This truncated natural deposits (107).
INTERPRETATION:	<i>Cut of boundary wall (106)</i>
CONTEXT (106)	Located within [105] was the base course of an irregularly built rubble wall measuring 0.4m in width and c. 1.8m in length (upper part of wall 89.01m OD). Constructed of large siltstone fragments and bonded by a clayey deposit in which were found occasional fragments of Staffordshire slipware. The southern portion of the wall extended in the N-facing section of the trench while the northern part of the wall was truncated by the insertion of a drain service.
INTERPRETATION:	<i>Would not appear to be on the same orientation as the features found within Trench 3. The rough-built construction and pottery fragments found within the wall deposit probably date it to the post-medieval period and suggest that it may form a later field boundary wall.</i>
CONTEXT (107)	Yellow to green siltstone fragments
INTERPRETATION:	<i>Represents the upper portions of the local solid geology.</i>

5.2 Trench 2

CONTEXT	DESCRIPTION
CONTEXT (200)	Dark brown coarse sands
INTERPRETATION:	<i>Post-destruction deposit combining 20th century building fabrics and topsoil</i>
CONTEXT (201)	Yellow to brown clayey silts. Conglomerate of redeposited siltstone and demolition / reclamation lenses incorporating very heavy amounts of charcoal and coke. Frequent fragments of yellow sand / siltstone throughout.
INTERPRETATION:	<i>Probable early 20th century make-up layer predating construction of structures now demolished within vicinity of development</i>
CONTEXT (202)	Light brown coarse sands
INTERPRETATION:	<i>Reclamation build-up consisting of very frequent amounts of charcoal and coke and moderate amounts of sand / siltstone fragments. Occasional sherds of white ware. 19th century</i>
CONTEXT (203)	Brown to pink coarse sands
INTERPRETATION:	<i>c. 19th century reclamation overburden</i>



Plate 1: Trench 1 looking west showing context (106)



Plate 2: West-facing section Trench 2

5.3 Trench 3

CONTEXT	DESCRIPTION
CONTEXT (300)	Dark brown coarse sand made up of 20 th century rubble and garden soils. Average depth 0.45m
INTERPRETATION:	<i>Recent demolition spread associated with former school buildings.</i>
CONTEXT (301)-(302)	Coarse sands containing frequent amounts of siltstone fragments and mortar. Occasional fragments of mid to late 19 th century pottery. Overall depth 0.32m.
INTERPRETATION:	<i>Probably associated with the construction phase of the late 19th century cattle market</i>
CONTEXT (303)-(306)	Light grey silty sands containing high amounts of charcoal and coke. Measured overall 0.36m in depth. Found within (305) was a coin bearing the inscription: 'CAROLUS II DEI GRATIA' (Charles II by the Grace of God) 'MAG[nae] BR[itanniae] FRA[nctiae] ET HIB[erniae] REX' (King of Great Britain, France and Ireland) '1682'.
INTERPRETATION:	<i>Gradual accumulative hillwash deposits.</i>
CONTEXT (307)	Very frequent amounts of irregular stone fragments and mortar spread, together with three fragments of impressed stone tile of c. 14 th century date (Droitwich type)
INTERPRETATION:	<i>Represents demolition phase associated with post-use of building components (310), (311).</i>
CONTEXT (308)	Very fine clayey deposits
INTERPRETATION:	<i>Possibly part of the initial destruction layer</i>
CONTEXT (309)	Yellow to green siltstone fragments with occasional spreads of mortar
INTERPRETATION:	<i>Redeposited naturals possibly representing a foundation layer of possible floor.</i>
CONTEXT (310)	Area of roughly rounded cobbling with inserts of larger flagstones (89.63m OD). Measured 2.5m in width and extended across trench. Either side demarcated by kerbing. Primarily sealed by (308) & (307).
INTERPRETATION:	<i>Stone floor</i>
CONTEXT (311)	Located E of feature (312) was a wall oriented NW-SE (upper portion of wall 89.50m OD). Measured 0.7m in width and stood to a height of 0.45m. Constructed of randomly coursed siltstone rubble and bonded by a clay deposit. Primarily sealed by same deposits as (310).
INTERPRETATION:	<i>Probable eastern wall of ancillary aisled structure contemporary with stone floor (310) and (312).</i>
CONTEXT (312)	Located in plan between floor (310) and wall (311) was an area of regularly placed stones oriented NE-SW (88.39m OD). Only a small area remained in situ and may represent robbing post-use of the feature. Primarily sealed by same deposits as (310)
INTERPRETATION:	<i>Probable hearth feature</i>
CONTEXT [313]	Cutting into (309) was a concave cut with rounded base situated in the southern part of the trench. Measured 0.4m in diameter with a depth of 0.45m. Base 89.16m OD.
INTERPRETATION:	<i>Posthole possibly forming a composite structural feature associated with floor (310) to the E</i>
CONTEXT (314)	Dark brown silty sand with moderate amounts of mortar flecking. Sealed by (307).
INTERPRETATION:	<i>Fill of posthole [313]</i>
CONTEXT (315)	Located at western end of trench was a single coursed wall measuring 0.4m in width and standing to a height of 0.15m (upper part of wall 90.10m OD). Primarily sealed by (307).
INTERPRETATION:	<i>Due to the sloping nature of the natural geology, this probably forms part of a terrace feature contemporary with floor (310) and wall (311).</i>



Plate 3: Trench 3 looking east showing context (311) in the foreground and (312) immediately behind

5.4 SSP 1

The pit measured 1.9m (N-S) x 1.5m (E-W) x 0.7m and contained dark brown coarse sands overlying natural siltstone. No structures, features or deposits of archaeological significance were identified.

5.5 SSP 2

This pit measured 2.3m (E-W) x 1.5m (N-S) x 1.2m and contained four contexts, the first of which consisted of dark brown coarse sands representing a post-destruction deposit combining 20th century building material and topsoil. Underlying this were yellow to brown clayey silts interpreted as redeposited siltstone and demolition / reclamation lenses incorporating frequent charcoal and coke, with frequent yellow sand / siltstone fragments throughout. This was interpreted as a probable early 20th century make-up layer predating the structures, now demolished, within the vicinity of the development. Underlying this were light brown coarse sands representing a reclamation build-up of very frequent charcoal and coke and moderate sand / siltstone fragments. Occasional sherds of white ware were also observed. Underlying this were brown to pink coarse sands representing c. 19th century reclamation overburden. Natural deposits were observed at the base of the trench. No structures, features or deposits of archaeological significance were identified.



Plate 4: Trench 3 looking west showing context (310) in centre of photograph

5.6 SSP 3

The pit measured 1.6m x 1.6m x 2.26m and was identical in composition to SSP 2. No structures, features or deposits of archaeological significance were identified.

5.7 SSP 4

The pit measured 2.3m (N-S) x 1.5m (E-W) x 0.7m and was identical in composition to SSP 1. No structures, features or deposits of archaeological significance were identified.

5.8 SSP 5

The pit measured 2m (N-S) x 1.5m (E-W) x 0.9m and was identical in composition to SSP 1. No structures, features or deposits of archaeological significance were identified.

6. Summary

Significant archaeological features/structures were identified in Trench 1 and Trench 3. Located within Trench 3 was the probable eastern wall (measuring 0.7m wide x 0.45m high and oriented NW-SE) of an ancillary aisled structure (311) contemporary with a stone floor (310) consisting of roughly rounded cobbling with inserts of larger flagstones (89.63m OD). Located in plan between floor (310) and wall (311) was an area of regularly placed stones oriented NE-SW (88.39m OD) representing a probable hearth feature (312). A posthole [313] was also identified possibly forming a composite structural feature associated with floor (310).

Associated with the demolition of the 'aisled structure' (310) were three fragments of impressed stone tile of c. 14th century date (Droitwich type).

Located at the western end of Trench 3 and probably forming part of a terrace feature contemporary with floor (310) and wall (311) was a single course wall measuring 0.4m wide and 0.15m high (315).

Located within Trench 1 was the base course of an irregularly built rubble wall measuring 0.4m wide x c. 1.8m in length (106), which did not appear to be on the same orientation as the features found within Trench 3 and is interpreted as a post-medieval field boundary wall.

Trench 2 comprised a post-destruction deposit combining 20th century building fabrics and topsoil overlying a probable early 20th century make-up layer predating the now-demolished structures within the vicinity of development. Underlying this was a reclamation build-up and c. 19th century reclamation overburden.

The SSPs revealed no structures, features or deposits of archaeological significance.

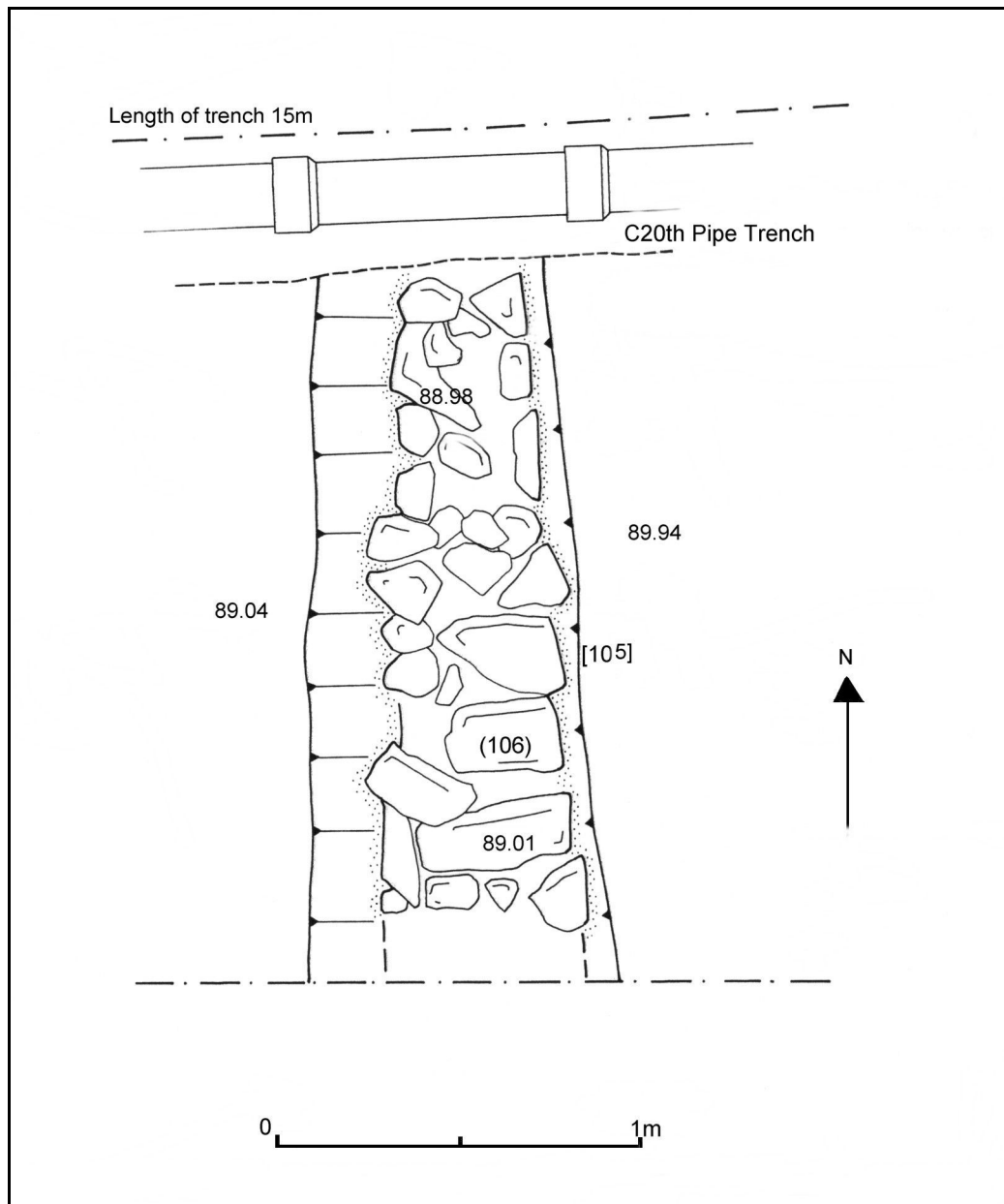


Fig. 5: Trench 1 showing wall (106)

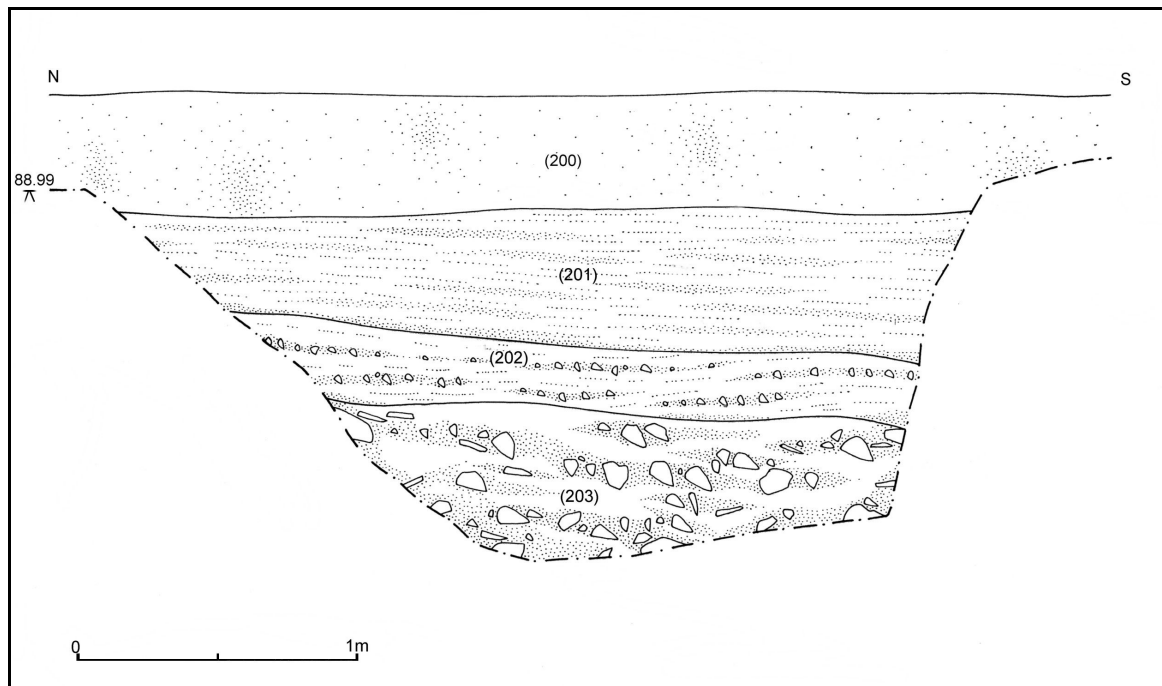


Fig. 6: West-facing section Trench 2

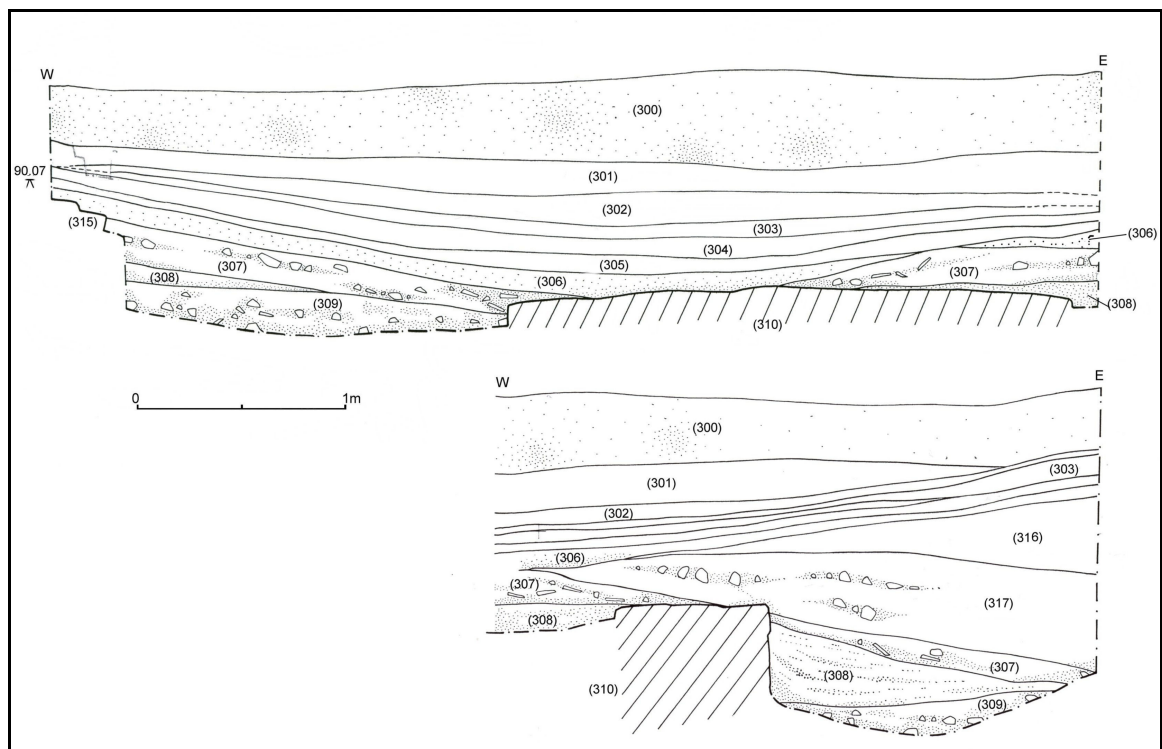


Fig. 7: South-facing section Trench 3

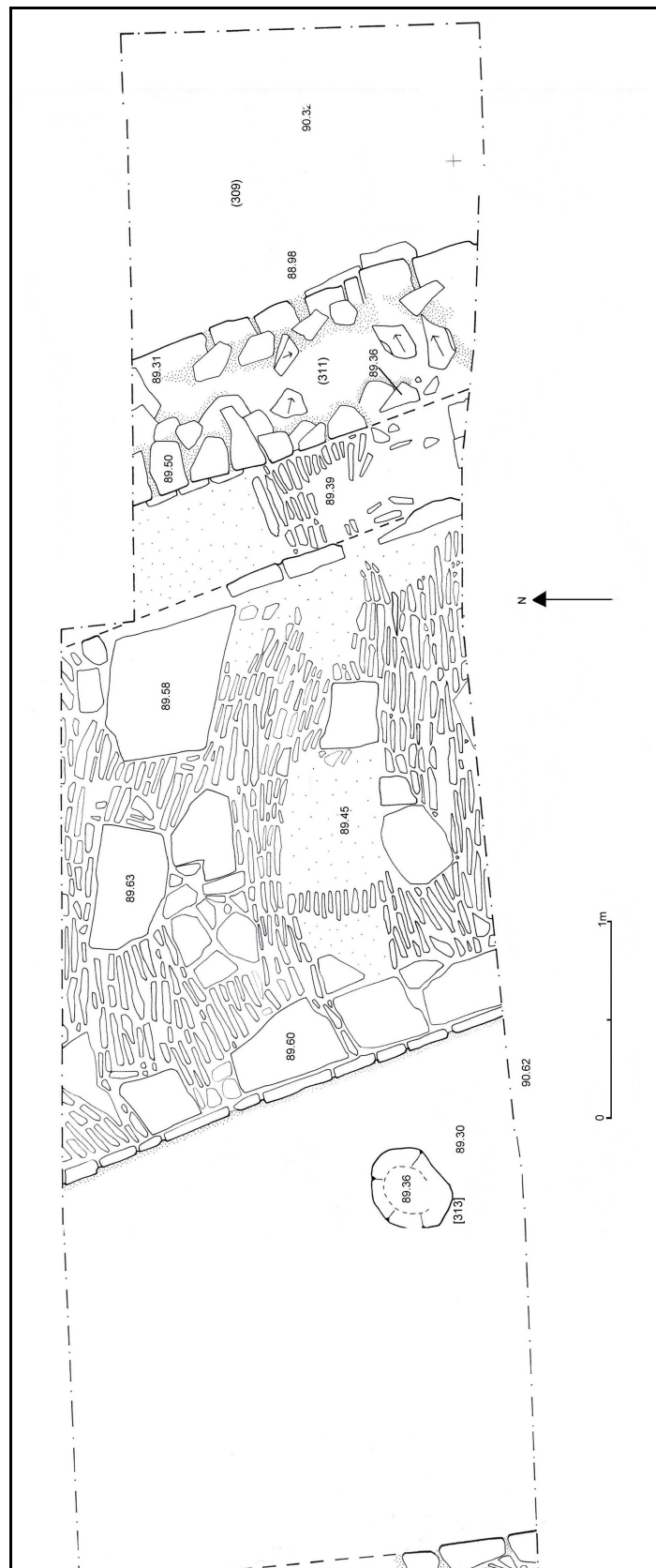


Fig. 8: Plan of Trench 3

7. Historical Interpretation

The area in which the archaeological evaluation took place is located immediately NW of the site of the church and claustral buildings of the medieval Augustinian Friary of Ludlow, a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM Ref. 35876). The location and layout of the friary church, the cloister and associated buildings lying immediately to the S of the church is well known. Substantial remains of the Friary buildings were discovered in 1861 when the site was cleared by the Town Corporation for the construction of the new cattle market and a plan of the extant foundations made by Herbert Evans, a local architect, who also produced a conjectural reconstruction of the Friary as it may have originally stood (**Plate 5**). More recently, a small-scale archaeological evaluation carried out on the site of the Friary by Shropshire County Council Archaeology Unit in 1993 found that the remains of the Friary buildings and associated deposits survive relatively intact, despite the building of the cattle market in the 1860s and the subsequent use of the site as a school (Hannaford, 1993).

7.1 Brief Historical Overview

The Augustinian Friars first settled in Ludlow in 1254, their original premises being at Dinham, just to the S of the castle. Two years later, the Friars moved to a new site outside the Galford Gate to the E of the town, located to the S of Lower Galdeford. Shortly afterwards, they embarked on a programme of major building works and enlarging their property, aided by royal patronage and the gifts of local lords (particularly the Beauchamp family) and the townspeople of Ludlow. After the completion of the Friary buildings, it appears that support for the Augustinian Friars gradually waned during the 15th and early 16th centuries; when the Friary was dissolved in 1538 the congregation consisted of only the Prior and three other friars.

After the Dissolution, the site of the Friary and its gardens were leased to a local farmer, Richard Palmer in December 1539 and then granted to Robert Townshend in 1547. The Townshend family, who held the Friary site until well into the 17th century, converted part of the Friary buildings into a private house, while other parts of the Friary (including the steeple of the church) were sold off for building stone. The remaining Friary buildings appear to have been damaged by fire during the Civil War, although considerable portions, including part of the massive precinct wall and an arched gateway, were still standing until 1817 when they were finally demolished. By 1847 the site of the Friary is shown as having been given over to meadow, gardens and orchards. The site was excavated in 1861 prior to the construction of the cattle market, which was subsequently cleared away in the 1940s when a school was built on the site.

7.2 Historical Interpretation of Evaluation Results

In the course of the evaluation carried out by Border Archaeology, evidence was found of a randomly coursed limestone wall located within the central area of Trench 3 oriented NW-SE. The wall stood to a height of c.0.45m and was c.0.70m in width. Looking at the soil profile relevant to the wall it would appear that the NE side of the wall was constructed as an external face. It would appear that this side of the wall was sealed by a primary demolition spread, fragments of an impressed stone tile of c.14th century coming from this sealed deposit.

Directly abutting the wall to the W and also oriented NW-SE was a series of heavily disturbed irregular stones that appeared to have been systematically laid on their side. These have been provisionally interpreted as a hearth but no burning was observed in the remainder of these stones. They may have been part of a structurally composite feature associated with the above walling but of an unknown function. Directly to the W of this was an area of pitched stones that extended in a westerly direction for c.2.5m. These were laid in an E-W direction, the pitched stones being interspersed with larger fragmentary stones. Both the E and W limits of the feature were delineated by a series of regularly cut edging stones. A single posthole was excavated c.0.30m to the west of this feature and measured 0.20m in diameter with a depth of c.0.15m. Its size and location may be structurally significant in that it formed one of a series of possible aisle-posts associated with the above remains. The pitched stones as a whole appear to have formed the third part of a structurally composite feature that included the wall and fragmentary area of stones, and may be interpreted as a hard floor surface.

All of the features found within Trench 3 were observed at c.1.00m below the existing ground surface and continued into the corresponding N and S facing sections of the trench. These were all primarily sealed by a demolition deposit and then by a sequence of agricultural soil lenses deposited during the post-medieval period, one of these at c.0.30m above the pitched stone surface containing a coin of Charles II dated 1682

It would appear that the wall and associated floor surface discovered in Trench 3 represent the remains of a substantial aisled building which had been demolished by the late 17th century, as evidenced by the sealed deposits above the floor surface, comprising a sequence of agricultural soils including a coin of 1682. It is possible that the building may have been destroyed by the Royalist garrison occupying Ludlow during the Civil War; part of the main Friary complex, which had been converted into a house and outbuildings after the Dissolution, is described as having been burnt down by 1654, along with many other buildings in the town (Faraday, 1991, 179).

Precisely when this building was erected is unclear, but the fact that it mirrors the NW-SE alignment of the Friary church and claustral complex seems to suggest an association with the Friary. It may have been built as one of the Friary outbuildings, possibly at some time during the late 13th-early 14th century, when a significant campaign of building works is known to have occurred, culminating with the completion of the Friary church in about 1340 (Faraday, 1991, 60; VCH, 1973, 95-96). It should be noted, however, that the type of stone used in the construction of the wall found in Trench 3 differs from the red sandstone which was generally used in the walls of the Friary church and claustral buildings, as recorded in 1861 and during the evaluation of the Friary site carried out in 1993 (Hannaford, 1993, 7). Another possibility, which should not be altogether overlooked, is that the building may have been constructed after the Friary was dissolved in 1538.

The function of the building discovered in Trench 3 is unclear. It may have simply served as a barn for the storage of agricultural produce (the Austin Friars held substantial gardens, orchards and meadows, extending to over 12 acres by 1538). Another possibility, suggested by the evidence of the probable hearth feature, is that the building was intended for the reception and entertainment of paupers or wayfarers. It should be noted that the primary mission of the Augustinian Friars was to minister to the poor and travellers (Faraday, 1991, 60).



Plate 5: Conjectural Reconstruction Drawing of Augustinian Friary at Lower Galdeford, Ludlow (1863)

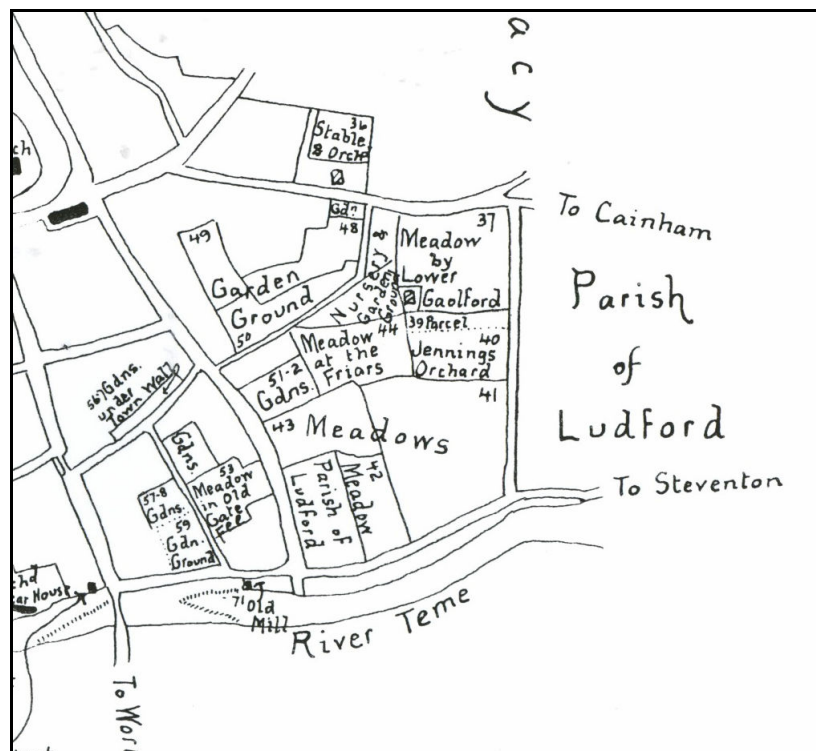


Fig. 9: Tithe Map of the Parish of St Lawrence, Ludlow (1847)



Fig. 10: Ordnance Survey 2nd edition 25 inch map showing cattle market on site of Friary (1902)

8. Bibliography & Cartography

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Wainwright, J., *Lower Galdeford Garage, Smithfield Car Park, Ludlow Shropshire: Report on Archaeological Observation of Trial Trenches* (Marches Archaeology 2004)

Tithe Map of the Parish of St Lawrence Ludlow (1847)

Ordnance Survey 1st edition 25 inch map (1886)

Ordnance Survey 2nd edition 25 inch map (1902)

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